

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, IS

SUBJECT: ARTICLE ON ISRAELI ARMS TO LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXERPTS FROM FITCHETT ARTICLE WASHINGTON
POST JULY 21.

2. QUOTE: LEBANON'S MARONITE CHRISTIAN FORCES,DISPLAYING
NEW MILITARY MUSCLE, ARE APPARENTLY RECEIVING DIRECT BUT
COVERT MILITARY AID FROM ISRAEL.

EVIDENCE IN THE FIELD, CALCULATED INDISCRETIONS BY CHRIST-
IAN POLITICIANS, THE STREET MOOD ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE AND
AND UNATTRIBUTABLE STATEMENTS BY WESTERN DIPLOMATS IN ARAB
CAPITALS ALL TEND TO CONFIRM IT.

AN AMBASSADOR WHO IS CLOSELY INVOLVED CALLED IT AN "OBJEC-
TIVE CONCURRENCE OF INTERESTS" AMONG THE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN
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SYRIA AND ISRAEL. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT LODGED ANY

COMPLAINTS TO ANYONE ABOUT THE PRACTICAL STEPS BY THE THREE
IN FURTHERANCE OF THEIR MUTUALITY OF INTEREST, U.S.
OFFICIALS CONFIRM PRIVATELY.

A KEY FACTOR IN THE RECENT STRENGTHENING OF CHRISTIAN
FORCES IS THE SUPPLIES OF NEW, HEAVIER MATERIEL POURING
INTO THEIR ARSENALS. UNQUOTE.

3. QUOTE: NEW EQUIPMENT IS ONLY PART OF THE EXPLANATION
OF BOLSTERED CHRISTIAN BOLDNESS. EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE
MANIFEST CONFIDENCE OF CHRISTIAN COMMANDERS THAT MORE
MATERIEL CAN BE OBTAINED PROMPTLY AND IN QUANTITY. THIS
HAS CONVINCED MILITARY OBSERVERS THAT CHRISTIAN ARMS PRO-
CURERS, WHO INITIALLY HAD TO SHOP AROUND FROM ARMS DEALERS
ALL OVER THE WORLD, NOW CAN OBTAIN THEIR SUPPLIES DIRECTLY
FROM THE MILITARY INVENTORIES OF A GOVERNMENT THAT ITSELF
HAS GOOD DELIVERY FACILITIES TO THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVE.
UNQUOTE.

4. QUOTE: WHILE THE CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THEY FIT ASSAD'S
STRATEGY OF WEAKENING THE PALESTINIANS TO FACILITATE AN
ARAB-ISRAELI SETTLEMENT, THEY REALIZE THAT A COUP OR AN
ASSASSIN'S BULLET COULD CHANGE SYRIAN POLICY.

IN THAT CASE, THEY SEE ISRAEL AS THE ONLY POTENTIAL
SAVIOR--A JEWISH STATE WHICH WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE A
MARONITE CHRISTIAN PARTNER AS AN ALLIED ISLAND IN A MOSLEM
ARAB SEA. UNQUOTE.

5. QUOTE: THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY DECIDED TO
GO OVER TO DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO THE CHRISTIANS THIS SPRING.
THE RESULTS BEGAN TO SHOW IN JUNE. UNQUOTE.

6. QUOTE: THE "ISRAELI CONNECTION" IS WIDELY SAID TO BE
FORMER LEBANESE PRESIDENT CAMILLE CHAMOUN. UNQUOTE.

7. QUOTE: ANOTHER HAWKISH CHRISTIAN LEADER, CHARBEL
CASSIS, A MONK, VISITS ISRAEL REGULARLY TO PERFORM PASTORAL
DUTIES FOR MARONITE ARAB CHRISTIAN MONKS THERE. UNQUOTE.

8. QUOTE: THE READY WILLINGNESS OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN
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DIPLOMATS HERE AND ELSEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO CONFIRM
THE ISRAELI CONNECTION HAS AROUSED SOME SUSPICION THAT THE
PROMINENT ISRAELI ROLE MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A COVER FOR ASSIS-
TANCE FROM AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

CIA SOURCES HERE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE AGENCY ASSISTED
A CHRISTIAN MILITIA WITH A PROGRAM OF STOCKPILING LIGHT
ARMS IN THE 1950S AS PART OF THE AGENCY'S USE OF MINORITIES

TO STOP ANY COMMUNIST ADVANCE. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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